

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 AF-10

IO-12 EUR-25 OMB-01 TRSE-00 RSR-01 ACDA-19 GAC-01

MC-02 COME-00 EB-11 INRE-00 /160 W
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P R 021314 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO USINT CAIRO PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6319

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 1045

BEIRUT POUCH BAGHDAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG KU

SUBJ: REPORTS ON TERMINATION OF KUWAITI SUBSIDIES

REF: USINT CAIRO 969

1. ARTICLE REPORTING LEBANESE MAGAZINE AL- HAWADITH INTERVIEW WITH FONMIN SHAIKH SABAH AL- AHMAD APPEARED IN LOCAL PAPERS HERE MARCH 30/31. IN ADDITION, ANOTHER ARTICLE IN DAILY NEWS, MARCH 30, CITING " HIGHLY INFORMED SOURCES" ALSO " CONFIRMED POSSIBILITY" THAT KUWAIT AND SAG MIGHT STOP THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO WAR EFFORT AGAINST ISRAEL " UNLESS IRAQ ENDS ITS OCCUPATION OF KUWAITI TERRITORY." ARTICLE WENT ON TO LIST KHARTOUM SUBSIDIES AND KUWAITI AID TO SYRIA AS EXAMPLES OF CONTRIBUTIONS.

2. TO DATE EMBASSY HAS BEEN UNABLE OBTAIN ANY COMMENT FROM FONMIN' S OFFICE. HOWEVER, DIRECTOR OF FONOFF POLITICAL DEPT ISSA AL- HAMAD HAS ASSURED CHARGE THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN KUWAIT' S POLICY WITH RESPECT TO PAYMENT OF SUBSIDY TO EGYPT. AL- HAMAD SAID ARTICLE PROBABLY INCORRECTLY QUOTED FONMIN, BUT
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IN ANY EVENT FONMIN WAS ONLY DISCUSSING WHAT MIGHT POSSIBLY HAPPEN IF THE IRAQI OCCUPATION CONTINUED. HE AFFIRMED THAT GOK HAD NOT RPT NOT TO DATE FORMALLY CONSIDERED CUTTING OFF SUBSIDY.

3. RE REPORTED KUWAITI AGREEMENT TO SUPPLY LIGHTENING AIRCRAFT TO EGYPT, FOLLOWING IS EXCERPT FROM KUWAIT TIMES ARTICLE, APRIL 2, INCLUDING INTERVIEW WITH FONMIN: " ASKED IF ERUPTION OF BORDER CRISIS WITH IRAQ HAD DEFERRED SCHEDULED DELIVERY OF TWO SQUADRONS OF KUWAIT' S LIGHTENING JET FIGHTERS TO EGY (REPORTEDLY TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE ON MARCH 21), SHAIKH SABAH SAID REPORT TO THIS EFFECT IN BEIRUT NEWSPAPER WAS EXAGGERATED. ' WE HOPE NOTHING WOULD HAPPEN WHICH WOULD BAR FULFILLMENT OF OUR COMMITMENTS TO THE JOINT ARAB DEFENCE, FONMIN SAID."

4. COMMENT: AS IN CASE OF RECENT INTERVIEW WITH AMIR, LEBANESE PRESS ARTICLES RE KUWAIT OFTEN MISLEADING. EMBASSY BELIEVES STATEMENT BY SHAIKH SABAH, ASSUMING HE ACTUALLY MADE REPORTED STATEMENT, WAS DESIGNED TO INCREASE PRESSURE ON IRAQ TO WITHDRAW ITS FORCES RATHER THAN TO DISCLOSE AN IMMINENT PLAN TO HUSBAND ALL NATIONAL RESOURCES FOR SELF DEFENSE. ON OTHER HAND, THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT GOK IS DEFINITELY THINKING IN TERMS OF IMPROVING ITS DEFENSE CAPABILITIES, ALTHOUGH THIS WOULD PROBABLY NOT AFFECT THE EGYPTIAN SUBSIDY, AT LEAST IN THE BEGINNING. MCCLELLAND

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PFOR EG KU
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973KUWAIT01045
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730430/aaaahjdg.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: USINT CAIRO 969
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10-Dec-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <03-Jan-2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971114
Subject: REPORTS ON TERMINATION OF KUWAITI SUBSIDIES
TAGS: PFOR, EG, KU, n/a
To: BEIRUT
CAIRO
JIDDA
NEA
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

